



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-5908)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (15-5752)

**Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.**

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (15-5901)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

1. Approval of the December 9, 2015 Minutes. (15-5753)

**On motion of Vice Chair Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Percy Duran and unanimously carried, this item was approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**II. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (15-5754)

**Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of November 2015:**

**There were a total of 9 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls.**

- **8 Youth callers**
- **1 Adult callers**

**In continuing her report, Ms. Day reported that there were 8 Outreach visits to the following facilities:**

- **Maryvale (1)**
- **St. Anne's Maternity Home (2)**
- **Delilu Achievement Home (1)**
- **Star View Children and Family Service Community Treatment Facility (1)**
- **David and Margaret Youth and Family Services (1)**
- **Rosemary Children's Services (1)**
- **Crittenton Services for Children and Families (Orange County) (1)**

3. **Internal Services Department (ISD). (15-5755)**

**There was no representative present to report.**

4. **Department of Mental Health (DMH). (15-5756)**

**Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, presented a follow up report to the Commissioners' request to invite individuals from DMH to address questions regarding access to services in Service Planning Area 6 (SPA 6) and the Field Capable Clinical Services (FCCS) funding. She reported that the request and the date of the SBC business meetings were provided to the administration office and she is still waiting for their responses.**

**The FCCS will be important in the next year with the implementation of the Continuum Care Reform for Group Homes. State Assembly Bill 403 is revising the Group Home care system in order to reduce the length of stay for children in the group homes and to mandate the County's more developed community based services. The agencies that are contracted with DMH will be getting their funds by the end of this year until the beginning of next year so that they can be ready as they prepare for the group home care reform. Ms. Trachtenberg also provided the Commission with an overview of the FCCS program.**

5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (15-5757)

**Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the month of November 2015 there were a total of 679 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 25 referrals in the following categories:**

- **8 Physical Abuse (PA)**
- **1 Emotional Abuse (EA)**
- **9 Sexual Abuse (SA)**
- **7 General Neglect (GN)**

**Total referrals closed: 19**

- **4 GN**
- **9 SA**
- **3 PA**
- **2 Caretaker Absence/Incapacity**
- **1 Regulation Violation**

**Ms. Bolanos Gonzalez also reported that three Group Homes are currently on HOLD:**

- **Lifecircles**
- **Sand Hill Group Home**
- **Macro Group Home**

6. Probation Department (PD). (15-5758)

**Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the status of group home AWOLs for the month of November 2015 as follows:**

**There were 123 AWOLs involving 104 youth:**

- **52 Remain AWOL**
- **57 Returned to group homes**
- **13 Placed in Juvenile Hall**
- **1 Terminated**

**Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with detailed monthly status reports of group home AWOLs during the month of November.**

**7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (15-5760)**

**The Commission addressed their concerns to Commander Henry Romero and Sergeant April Carter regarding their visits to the Men's Central Jail, the Century Regional Detention Center and the San Fernando Courthouse. Commander Romero assured the Commissioners that he will follow up on the concerns and encourage the Commissioners to report issues that require immediate attention to the Watch Commander on duty for immediate action on the very day of their inspections.**

**III. COMMISSION REPORTS**

**8. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-5761)**

**Chairperson Montaña shared the following Daily Breeze Newspaper Article with the Commission:**

**Sheriff's Department Agrees to Share Info (December 16, 2015)**

**9. Treasurer's Report. (15-5762)**

**Chairperson Montaña the treasurer packet that was handed to her by Commissioner Andrews at the December 2, 2015 meeting. The packet included:**

- **Cash in the amount of \$408.90**
- **Receipt book**
- **List of Commissioner payments**
- **Deposit receipts**

**10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-5763)**

**There was no report presented.**

**11. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from December 10, 2015 to December 15, 2015. (15-5764)**

**During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:**

**Chairperson Montaña visited:**

- **T & T Home (Tillman Ave, Carson, CA) for Boys on December 10, 2015.**

**Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:**

- **Optimist (Tillman Ave., Carson, CA) on December 14, 2015.**
- **San Fernando Courthouse (Third Street, San Fernando, CA) on December 15, 2015.**

**Commissioner Arias-Bhatia visited:**

- **Walnut Diamond Bar Station (E. Valley Blvd., Walnut, CA) on December 15, 2015**

**Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby visited:**

- **Careprovider Org Foundation (N. Kidder Avenue, Covina, CA) on December 11, 2015**

**Commissioner Percy Duran visited:**

- **St. Anne's Maternity Home (N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA) on December 11, 2015**
- **Hillside Home for Children (Avenue 64, Los Angeles, CA) on December 14, 2015**

**During the reporting period, the following facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:**

**Commissioners Zhen and Burton visited:**

- **Century Regional Detention Facility (Alameda, Lynwood, CA) on December 15, 2015. The shower ceilings were rusty, there was water build up along the toilets, there were no shower heads, and the water was brown. There has been plumbing issues since April/May and vents are trapping dust. The lighting in the trustee dorm was very dim and almost dark, there are not enough doctors, Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses to provide medical care. 4-5 full time doctors on staff from 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., average wait time is 2 weeks. There are 4 hospital runs per week taking away staff time. There is a need for more staff for medical care. There is a need to be able to discharge women, set up a community transition unit there instead of going to IRC. The women complained about no outdoor recreation area, there is a need for more deputies in the modules and custody assistant, lights were very close to the top bunk which creates safety concern to the disabled and older people that are being assigned to the top bunks.**

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**First aid kits are inadequate, missing basic supplies and not enough supplies for the hundreds of people in the trustee dorms.**

**During the reporting period, the following group homes were visited and reported no one home:**

**Commissioner Andrews visited:**

- **Penny Lane (Valjean Street, North Hills, CA) on December 11, 2015.**

**Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:**

- **Rosemary Children Services (Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA) on December 15, 2015**

**Commissioner Arias-Bhatia visited:**

- **Touch of Life Foundation (Densmore Street, Pomona, CA) on December 15, 2015**

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Matters Not Posted**

- 12.** Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-5765)

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

##### **Public Comment**

- 13.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-5766)

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

##### **Adjournment**

- 14.** Adjournment for the meeting of December 16, 2015. (15-5767)

**There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of December 16, 2015 at 12:25 p.m.**